

**RACIAL HARMONY TASK FORCE  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
APRIL 19, 2004**

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
445 WEST WEBER STREET  
STOCKTON CA**

|                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Janet Lilly         | AACC                               |
| Gary DeiRossi       | San Joaquin Co Office of Education |
| Dennis Lee          | CVACC                              |
| Reverent Bob Hailey | Unity Baptist Church               |
| LaVenna Gray        | NAACP                              |
| William Murray      | Superior Court                     |
| Kaye Mooney         | University of the Pacific          |
| Dino Leonardi       | COS                                |
| Florence Low        | COS                                |
| Josephine Weber     | COS (Recorder)                     |

Ms. Lilly reported that subcommittees have been meeting about every three weeks for the Hands across Stockton Celebration on August 21 at the Weber Point Events Center. Everyone has been assigned to a committee except for the two new attendees, Ms. Mooney and Mr. DeiRossi.

**1. Subcommittee Updates:**

**Food/Entertainment/Vendor Subcommittee**

Dino Leonardi, Event Coordinator, reported that his committee has finalized the wording on the application. He distributed copies and provided a list of people to whom they will be mailed in the next week. He asked that committee members also distribute them to those who might be interested. The cover letter is about five paragraphs explaining the event and inviting people to participate. The mailing list was broken up into groups and the mailings should go out next week. The application deadline is June 1. The committee discussed the length of the event as there was a concern that there might not be enough entertainment for the time frame of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Food issues and costs were also discussed. Mr. Leonardi said that one thing that was not addressed initially was that food service will need warmers to keep foods hot. He said that a health permit will have to be obtained, and eight hours is a long time to keep foods at the correct temperatures. He said that shortening the event by a couple of hours from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or noon to 6 p.m. may be a solution. This would still allow food vendors to cover both mealtimes. Mr. Leonardi said that the committee would like to avoid advertising the event times until the information is in on entertainment.

Ms. Lilly said that she did not think an eight hour long event would be an issue because there does not have to be constant entertainment, and people mingle better when there are breaks in entertainment. She said that food service could begin at noon and shut down by 5:30 p.m. so cleanup can be done.

Mr. Leonardi said that once entertainers are heard from, the approved entertainers will be presented to the Program Committee for scheduling. He said that his committee's next meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 9 .m. at the Parks & Recreation office.

Mr. DeiRossi asked if the committee was interested in performances from school groups.

Mr. Leonardi said that they are very interested in this, noting that Diane Barth is on the committee. Performances by high school bands, etc. are desired with the focus on Stockton schools including Lodi, Lincoln, and Manteca school districts.

Ms. Lilly asked if there will be a secondary application after the entry application is submitted.

Mr. Leonardi replied that after the applications came in, perhaps a phone interview could be done to obtain specific details. He commented that the wife of Jeff Feinstein of Temple Israel did a wonderful job in writing the cover letter. Ms. Lilly asked that Mr. Leonardi e-mail the cover letter to committee members. In response to a statement by Ms. Lilly, Mr. Leonardi assured her that all food vendors will be given a copy of the City's standards as part of their packets. Mr. Leonardi commented said that a plan must be formulated to get people to loan or donate equipment, because without this, some people won't be able to participate.

Ms. Lilly suggested that equipment could be rented from local stores, such as Arthur's Party Supplies, and perhaps a discount can be arranged.

In response to Judge Murray, Mr. Leonardi said that hopefully, with sponsorship, canopies can be rented for everyone. This was put in the initial budget. If not, people may have to pay a small stipend for canopies so there is uniformity and everything looks organized. The goal is not to charge for a booth or public admission. Mr. Leonardi said that each vendor will probably be allowed to sell their own beverages, but this decision is not final.

### **Publicity Subcommittee**

Ms. Lilly noted that Matt Robinson, Chair of the Publicity, is very busy with the Asparagus Committee. The sponsorship letters have been sent out today. The Publicity Committee will become quite active in May once it is ascertained what information will go out to the media.

### **Fundraising Subcommittee**

Ms. Lilly said that she does not have a status report.

### **Faith Subcommittee**

Reverend Hailey said he had no updates.

### **Program Committee**

Ms. Low said that nothing can be done with logistics until they are closer to the event.

Ms. Lilly said that will involve mostly Mr. Leonardi and the Police and Fire Departments.

Ms. Low said that the Fundraising Subcommittee and the Publicity Committee could use help. Judge Murray said that he would help with Publicity and Ms. Mooney said she would help wherever needed. Ms. Lilly said that the Publicity Committee would be working on the "save the date" postcards, posters, and distributing information through as many free avenues as possible, such as the City newsletter.

Ms. Low said that this will also involve vendors and entertainers. She distributed applications.

Ms. Lilly emphasized that it is important to get young people to actively participate.

In response to Reverend Hailey, she said that they would like participation from a wide range of churches, whose members could also set up booths or promote a food item, etc., and have a presence at the event and also make its activities known. Churches could also provide entertainment such as praise dancers or choirs. Ms. Lilly emphasized that churches must fill out applications so that the Program Committee can plan the day and the activities.

Ms. Low said that Reverend Hailey could meet with Mr. Leonardi at his next scheduled subcommittee meeting, April 28 at 9 a.m.

Ms. Gray noted that many churches have already applied for food and entertainment venues.

Ms. Lilly reiterated that churches can participate in a variety of diverse events.

In response to Reverend Hailey's question about what is to be accomplished by this event, Ms. Lilly read from the Mayor's statement in his February 2 letter: "Hands across Stockton, a Cultural Celebration is a calling for our community to get together, learn about our neighbors, and find out what we have to offer each other in a family-friendly environment. Our community has many unique events throughout the year, but many are seen for only a specific group. Hands across Stockton will bring to the map a diverse display of cultural and civic pride." Ms. Lilly said that ethnic attire will be encouraged and diverse food and art will be presented. She said that it would be a "cultural blow-out."

Ms. Gray said that her group could assist with mailing and the City would cover the costs.

Discussion ensued on participation by representatives of European counties.

Ms. Mooney asked if there has been a plan formulated related to non-profits.

Ms. Lilly responded that the criteria are basically the same as for other groups.

Ms. Mooney noted that UOP's community service project is scheduled for the same day. She asked if it would be possible to have the students be part of this event. They would have to return to campus by 1:30 p.m. The details would have to be worked out with the University.

Judge Murray asked if the University would want to have a presence as related to recruiting and information on admissions and grants.

Ms. Lilly said that this would be a great opportunity for new UOP students to see Stockton at its best.

Ms. Mooney said that she thought that the nonprofit agencies would have booths at the cultural event so that her freshman students could meet with them there, rather than being driven to each agency by bus.

Ms. Lilly repeated that those interested should fill out an application and submit it to the Vendor Committee.

Discussion ensued on how UOP's freshman orientation could tie into this event. It was pointed out that this event will be more of a cultural event than a display of nonprofit organizations. Ms. Mooney said that providing community service at the event is an option to consider.

Discussion ensued on the roles of volunteers at the event. Ms. Lilly said that a volunteer coordinator is needed and a volunteer application form should be created. She would discuss this with Mr. Leonardi.

## **2. Next Meeting**

The meeting was closed at 12:55, with May 17 to be the next meeting as the conference room was not available for May 10.